

REMARKS

Claims 2-9, 11, 13-16, 21 and 22 were pending and considered. Claims 2-9, 11 and 13-16 were allowed, and claims 21 and 22 were rejected. In response, claim 21 has been amended and claim 22 has been cancelled. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 2-9, 11, 13-16 and 21 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claims 2-9, 11 and 13-16 have been allowed.

Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,569,258 (Clifford et al.). The Examiner states that Clifford et al. shows everything recited in claims 21 and 22. In response, claim 22 has been cancelled and claim 21 has been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 21 are requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that Clifford et al. does not teach the invention recited in claim 21 as amended. Specifically, as now amended, claim 21 recites; "said orifice being configured to emit therefrom a fan-like spray" and "said orifice positioned with respect to said bell cup to direct said fan-like spray against the bell cup in an area nearer to the inner edge of the bell cup than to the outer edge of the bell cup."

It is respectfully submitted that Clifford et al. contains no teaching of using a fan-like spray. Clifford teaches using shaping air nozzles, or an independent nozzle separate from the shaping air nozzles, to emit a mixture of cleaning fluid and air against the outer surface of the bell cup. However, nothing in the teaching of Clifford et al. suggests the use of a "fan-like spray" as shown, described and claimed in the present pending application.

Clifford et al. teaches that the shaping air passages 30 are formed in the assembly 29, which "terminates adjacent an outer surface of the bell cup 24 near the outer edge 26 thereof." (Column 3, lines 36-38) Further, Clifford et al. states, "A plurality of shaping air passages 30 are formed in the assembly 29 each having at one end a hole or slot outlet 31 facing the outer surface

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of the bell 24 and directed toward the edge 26.” (Column 3, lines 38-41.) Clifford et al. teaches using outlets 31 for bell cup cleaning. Alternatively, a dedicated passage 36 is used with an outlet 37 immediately adjacent the outlet 31 (see Fig. 1). Further, in the claims, Clifford et al. recites “...providing at least one outlet ... positioned adjacent an exterior surface and an outer edge of a bell cup...” (Claim 1). In independent claim 7, Clifford et al. recites “...a shaping air assembly having an end surface adjacent said exterior surface and outer edge of said bell cup...”, and a passage “formed in said shaping air assembly having an .... outlet... formed in said end surface...” Claim 11 also recites the outlet “...positioned adjacent an exterior surface and an outer edge of a bell cup...” Thus, it is clear from the description, drawings and claims of Clifford et al. that the invention of Clifford et al. is one in which a mixture of cleaning solvent and air is applied near the outer edge of the bell cup.

In contrast, claim 21 of the present application recites the orifice “positioned with respect to said bell cup to direct said fan-like spray against the bell cup in an area nearer to the inner edge of the bell cup than to the outer edge of the bell cup.” This is contrary to the teaching of Clifford et al.

The present invention provides advantages over the prior art. The fan-like spray spreads the cleaning fluid more evenly on outer surface 50 than would a more concentrated jet-like spray (paragraph [34]). The present invention provides a thorough efficient cleaning of a substantial portion of the bell cup since the fluid is deposited near the inner edge of the bell cup and is moved by centrifugal force outwardly across the outer surface of the bell cup (paragraph [33]).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the invention recited in claim 21 is neither anticipated by nor obvious from the teaching of Clifford et al. and should be allowed. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 21 are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are

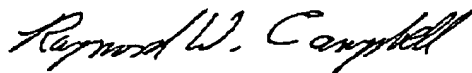
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therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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